



AIR FORCE MATERIALS AND MANUFACTURING ALUMNI ASSOCIATION (AFMMAA) NEWSLETTER

EIGHTH EDITION

SPRING 2008

ML DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



**Dr. David E.
Walker**

Dear Alumni, I am pleased to share with you what has taken place at the Materials and Manufacturing Directorate in the six months since I last wrote to you. First and foremost, on 12 February, Gen Bedke and the technical directorates were briefed on their performance during last October's Scientific Advisory Board review. Remember from my last letter that the focus of the 2007 review included one of RX's Core Technical Competencies (CTC): Support for Operations and six sub-core technical competencies: metals, nanomaterials, surfaces and interfaces, ceramics, hybrids and NDE. The chart below illustrates the results of the review and reflects the commitment of everyone in RX to maintain our reputation for excellence in the area of materials and manufacturing research.

CTC/Sub-CTC	Technical	Near-Term	Far-Term	Resources
Hybrid	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Satisfactory
Metals	Excellent	Excellent	Satisfactory	Excellent
Ceramics	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Non-Destructive Eval.	Satisfactory	Excellent	Satisfactory	Satisfactory
Nanomaterials	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Satisfactory
Surface & Interfaces	Excellent	Excellent	Satisfactory	Excellent
Support for Ops - Airbase	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Marginal	Satisfactory
Support for Ops - Sys Spt	Excellent	Excellent	Satisfactory	Satisfactory

Furthermore, the board praised RX for the quality of our researchers and state-of-the-art facilities, specifically addressing our work in Ceramics, Surfaces & Interfaces, Systems Support and Airbase Operations as critical to meeting the needs of the future Air Force.

Bluing Trip Exposes Junior Force to Operational Air Force

During the week of 28 April – 2 May, a group of 25 RX Junior Force members traveled to Eglin AFB and then on to Cape Canaveral AFS/Kennedy Space Center as part of the second RX Bluing Trip. Accompanying the group as mentors were Col David Glade AFRL/CV, myself, Col Gary Konnert, Chuck Ward and SMSgt Donald Ward from the Air Force

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Since the last newsletter, your faithful team of officers has been reelected to an additional term through June 2009. We appreciate your confidence and we are committed to do the best we can for AFMMAA. Towards that end, we've met to discuss what the main thrust of our remaining tenure (beyond current objectives) should be. Presently we are seeking to: preserve our heritage; remember our departed ones; increase our membership; keep the association financially viable; and increase our scholarship awards (amount and numbers) through increased contributions via the CFC and individual donations. You will see evidence of these efforts in other reports in this issue.

In thinking about what else we should be doing, it occurs to me that we really are "Dayton-centric" although we try

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SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM UPDATE

The 2008 AFMMAA Scholarship Program is off and running. This year's program began with the usual solicitation of applicants through the RX intranet in March. This year the AFMMAA Executive Board voted to change the scholarship eligibility criteria to allow only applicants who are sons or daughters of RX government employees. Therefore, sons and daughters of the RX full-time contractor staff are no longer eligible for AFMMAA scholarships. The reason for this change is that it is planned that current and future funding for the AFMMAA scholarship program will come from donations to the AFMMAA through the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) by RX government employees. Since the RX contractor staff cannot contribute to CFC, the Board felt that the scholarship program should exclude the contractor staff.

In spite of the change in eligibility criteria, we have experienced the highest number of applicants received since the AFMMAA started awarding scholarships in 2002. The 2008 application deadline was 15 May, and we have received nine applications for the two \$1000 scholarships we plan to award. A team of five volunteers, in addition to the Committee Chair, will help review the applications and meet later in June to determine the two awardees. The volunteer reviewers this year are Walt Griffith, George Schmitt, John Speers, Gary Waggoner, John Williamson and Bob Cochoy, Chairman. The AFMMAA is in line to receive approximately \$1870 from the fall 2007 CFC, which should almost cover the cost of the two planned 2008 scholarships.

COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN

We Did It Again!

We have been advised that our 2008 application for the Miami Valley Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) of Champaign, Clark, Clinton, Darke, Fayette, Greene, Miami, Montgomery, Preble, Shelby, and Warren Counties, Ohio has been approved. This is the third consecutive year that we have been approved to participate, meaning that the AFMMAA will be listed in the CFC Contributor's Information Guide and we will be eligible to receive contributions for use in our Scholarship Program. As a result, the current "Materials Lab" employees will have the option and opportunity to designate the AFMMAA as a recipient for all or a portion of their contributions for 2008. Hopefully, the number and amount of contributions from the Lab employees will continue to increase so we can

award larger value scholarships to the sons and daughters of the AFRL/RX government workforce. The 2008 Campaign will begin on 1 October and end 14 November 2008.

AFRL/RX ALUM WINS AWARD

Don Stevison, former AFRL/RXPJ employee and member of the AFMMAA, received a significant award. He was recently inducted into the National Four-String Banjo Hall of Fame! Don, a resident of New Carlisle, received this outstanding award for his contributions to four-string banjo education and instruction. He retired from RX in 1991. As part of the American Banjo Museum in Oklahoma, the Hall of Fame honors banjo players who opt to strum with four strings – a relic of ragtime and early jazz, rather than five strings. The article in the Dayton Daily News also recognized him for another significant achievement – he helped formulate a better moustache wax. In the early 80's, he and a few bandmates in the Kettering Banjo Society, all of whom have handlebar moustaches, acted as guinea pigs to assist a company (Nestle) find the right combination of ingredients for a good moustache wax. They went through 209 combinations to select the best one. Congratulations to Don for these significant accomplishments!



Don Stevison Recently Inducted into the National Four-String Banjo Hall of Fame

(ML Director's Message Continued)

Corrosion Office. The intent of these trips is to get junior military and civilian personnel out of the lab environment and show them what their counterparts are doing across the Air Force, especially in the operational arena. Listed below are the sites the group visited:

Eglin AFB Tour Stops

AFRL Munitions Directorate
 McKinley Climatic Lab
 16th Electronics Warfare Squadron
 Eglin Base Ops
 Eglin Weather Squadron
 Flight Line Tour
 Space Ops @ Hurlburt Field
 F-16 Static Display

CCAFS/KSC Tour Stops

Morrell Operations Center
 Space Launch Center 17
 Atlas 5 Spaceflight Operations Center
 Vertical Integration Facility
 LCSS
 Mercury, Gemini, Apollo Launch Pads
 Saturn 5 Visitor's Center
 Space Shuttle Launch Pads (39A & 39B)
 International Space Station Center

It was a fun, exciting and action packed week for all of us, but after fitting a months worth of activity into four days I know everyone was ready to get back home. The feedback received from both the participants as well as the mentors has been overwhelmingly positive, with many of the participants, after having seen the opportunities that exist at these locations, expressing a strong interest to pursue future assignments in the space launch and operational areas. I believe these trips to be an excellent investment in our junior force; not only do the participants get a better picture of the total Air Force but also they understand that their supervision, from their branch chief to the AFRL deputy commander, believes that it's important to spend time, energy and resources to develop the people who will eventually be where they are now.

Offsite Brings RX Leadership Together

Finally, I would like to share with you the details of the RX Leadership Offsite (RLO) held May 5th and 6th at the Dayton Racquet Club and attended by the RX supervisors and technical leadership across all five directorate locations. The RLO was created in response to Gen Bedke's directive that each TD hold their own offsite to

communicate the message to their directorate's individual supervisors and technical leaders as it was presented at the AFRL Senior Leader Offsite back in February. The two main points of his message were (1) the value of the AFRL strategy to laboratory personnel and (2) how each Technical Directorate's leadership can best develop and engage its people on a day-to-day basis.

Day one of the RLO was devoted to laying out the vision of how we will develop our people in RX. We began by outlining a new process to ensure summer hires are integrated into the directorate's mission and are collaborating with one another on technical matters throughout their time with us. Next, RX Junior Force Council President Darnell Diggs shared the results of an informal survey he conducted with several military and civilian junior force members on what they see as the great and not-so great things about working in RX. Dr Farmer then gave an assessment on the effectiveness of the RX 101 seminar series and the day culminated in the rollout of a new tool to assist our supervisors in developing the people working for them – the Individual Development Plan (IDP). The goal of the IDP is to create a living document that captures the career desires of the new employee when they arrive and integrates those desires into their career progression plans and milestones.

Day two began with Mr. Jack Blackhurst presenting the strategic plan vectors showing where AFRL is headed, how it will get there and how every directorate and every individual has a role to play in making it happen. Later, attendees were placed into cross-divisional breakout groups to share their perspectives in answering three questions: (1) What about the way RX does business helps us achieve the AFRL Strategy (2) What about how RX does business hinders us from achieving the AFRL strategy and (3) How best to address and fix those hindrances. Over the next three months I will be compiling a list of changes or best practices that have been made as a result of the information shared at the offsite. I look forward to sharing those best practices with you in my next letter to you and as I expressed to you in my last letter we will continue to institute the changes, execute world class materials and manufacturing research, and search out opportunities to make RX an even stronger member of the AFRL and AF team.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Dr. Walker's full bio may be found on the web at <http://www.af.mil/bios/bio.asp?bioID=8922>.

(President's Corner Continued)

very hard to stay in touch with folks who migrate away from the Dayton area post-retirement. However, in spite of good intentions, we have not made any real effort to capture the interest and participation of the significant RX organizational element, RXQ (Airbase Technologies Division) located at Tyndall AFB, FL. A little RX history provided by George Schmitt reveals that RXQ has been a member of the RX (then ML) family since 1997 when AFRL was first stood up. It was formerly the Environics Directorate and actually reported through the old Armstrong Laboratory at Brooks AFB, TX. However, the Airbase Technology Branch of RXQ was a branch of the old AF Flight Dynamics Laboratory (previously VA; now RB) although located at Tyndall AFB. Because one of the AFRL formation rules was that satellite locations would move with the main organization during consolidation into AFRL, the Airbase Branch came with the Environics Directorate and all became RXQ (MLQ at the time). Environics originally came out of the Air Force Civil Engineering Center to Armstrong Lab and then to ML/RX because RX was already managing the pollution prevention materials part of their mission and it didn't logically fit elsewhere.

An exception to our lack of involvement with RXQ is the AFMMAA scholarship program, where we have received several applications and made one award in recent years to an RXQ family member. I would like to build on this beginning and work with current RXQ leadership and retirees to see if we might establish an AFMMAA "Florida Chapter" (or some other concept) in the coming year. Again, thanks to George Schmitt, I have identified several points of contact in Florida and at RXQ and will follow up with them in the next couple of months. If you have other ideas as to how to approach this, or would like to be a part of it, please let me know.

Jim Mattice, President, AFMMAA

CURRENT RX WORKFORCE

The current size of the RX workforce includes the following:

a) Civilian Employees	422
b) Military	91
c) On-site Contractors	<u>572</u>
Total	1085

This includes those at WPAFB, Tyndall AFB and other operating locations.

HONORS AND AWARDS

A number of RX employees have been presented with significant awards since the last Newsletter. Among those are the following:

- Dr. Ken Hopkins, RXPS – Award for Outstanding Professional Achievement from the Affiliate Societies Council of Dayton
- Ms. Laura Rae, RXPS* – Award for Outstanding Professional Achievement from the Affiliate Societies Council of Dayton
- Dr. Howard Sizek, RXMP – 2007 DOD Value Engineering Achievement Award
- Dr. Carl Lombard, Jr., RXMP – 2007 DOD Value Engineering Achievement Award
- Dr. Jeffrey Calcaterra, RXLM – 2007 Scowcroft Award for ICBM Acquisition and Sustainment
- Dr. Lee Semiatin, RXL – Named as Fellow of the Materials, Metals and Materials Society (TMS). Also received the Distinguished Scientist/Engineer Award from the Structural Materials Division of TMS.
- The Team of Dr. John Russell, Richard Holzworth, Dr. Frances Abrams and Dr. Stephen Clay, RXM – The Excellence and Innovation Award for Innovation in Composite Engineering
- Mr. Michael D Mifsud, RXQO – 2008 AFRL Annual Award for Mission Support
- Dr. James G. Grote, RXPS – 2008 AFRL Annual International Award (Individual)



Ms. Laura Rae, RXPS*

RECENT INFORMATION ABOUT AFMMAA MEMBERS

During the year, many of our members have provided comments for the AFMMAA website regarding their current activities and interests. Here are a few selected comments from the many that may be found at www.afmmaa.com or www.afmmaa.mil.

Susan L. Cwiklik, ASC/XRA. scwiklik@earthlink.net
Returned to work in Area B for a 3 month assignment at ASC/XRA.

Craig S. Hartley, Sedona AZ. Retired from a career in academe, last position Dean of Engineering at Florida Atlantic University, to become PM for Metallic Materials, AFOSR/NA in June '00. Retired from AFOSR/NA in Mar '05 to Sedona where I maintained a consulting activity in research and education in materials science and engineering.

Karas Matthews, Kettering, OH. I enjoy every day, keep busy and I am never bored. Please mark your calendars for our great Greek Festival the weekend after Labor Day at the Greek Church next door to the Dayton Art Museum. No entrance fee, fun, good food, dancing and lots of smiles.

Bobby & Charlotte McConnell, Bluff City, TN. charlandbobby@aol.com Bobby enjoys searching and finding of his roots in the McConnell clan, sons of the American Revolution and sons of Confederate Veterans. Both are active in church serving on the board/session and various committees.

Paul Propp, Hawthorne, CA. pmpropp@sbcglobal.net Departed ML in '93, hard to believe! I am well! My mountain place allows me to escape the insanity and press of Big City life. Current politics are more depressing than ever.

Wally Reimann, Franktown VA. Reimco@verizon.net
Fully retired, no longer doing any technical work.

Robert T. Schwartz, Fairborn, OH. I am enclosing two checks, one for dues and one for a contribution to the scholarship fund. I am several months past my 91st birthday and I now have been retired for the same length of time that I worked in the Materials Lab, 34 years. I have not traveled since I was 90, but previously I traveled in all continents except Antarctica. I agree with you that the past changes in organizations and symbols had little effect on the Materials Lab. (At one time my section had the symbol RTS, plus a number).

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DO YOU REMEMBER?

Shown below are the photographs of several ML (now RX) engineers and scientists taken in the 60's. How many do you recognize and remember?

For the answers, see page 8.



A



B



C



D



E



F



G



H

(Recent Information About AFMMAA Members Continued)

John Rhodehamel, Xenia, OH. rwglr@aol.com
Qualified as an "Ohio Certified Naturalist" in 2007.

Don Shrader, Eaton, OH. drshrader@earthlink.net
Still active as consultant in technical marketing and engineering. I primarily consult for ALCOA. Also work Joint Venture of Small Ohio Businesses that I initiated to develop simulation-based design tools.

Kermit Stearns, Beavercreek, OH. kccircus5@aol.com
Currently employed as AFRL/RX Tech Director. Retired from AF as Lt. Col in 2001, Anteon contractor from 2001 to 05, and government civilian from June 05 to present.

If you wish to share your recent activities or interest with others on the AFMMAA website, please send an email to Tom Cooper at tcooper@utcd Dayton.com, or Dick Engman at dkengman@msn.com.

JERRY PERSH SELECTED AS AFMMAA HONORARY LIFETIME MEMBER

Jerry Persh, inspirational leader of the DOD materials development community for nearly four decades, has been selected by the AFMMAA Executive Committee as an Honorary Lifetime Member. This prestigious award was presented on 22 May 2008 at the Recognition Dinner held for Mr. Persh at the Keck Center of the National Academies in Washington, DC. The Dinner was held as part of the First Persh Conference May 21-23 2008, which was sponsored by the Defense Science and Technology Reliance 21. The Conference, which was by invitation only, was held at the SAI Executive Conference Center in Arlington, VA. and was Chaired by Dr. Tia Benson Tolle, AFRL/RX. The subject of the First Persh Conference was "Carbon Fiber Technology – Today and Future". Mr. Persh was recognized for his service as the Staff Specialist for Materials and Structures in the Office of the Director of Defense, Research and Engineer-

ing (Advanced Technology) in the Pentagon from 1967 to 1996. It is planned that subsequent Persh Conferences will be held periodically on a variety of critical materials and processes issues.

Do you have an early memory of our old friend and materials and manufacturing champion, Jerry Persh... when you first met him; a funny (or serious) story of when you briefed him as the DOD Materials Czar; a remembrance in traveling abroad with him on TTCP business; or ??? Jerry would love to hear from you. Forward any such memories to any officer and we will get them packaged and transmitted to Jerry.

10,000 MUSIC CDs DONATED TO CLASSICAL RADIO STATION WDPR BY FORMER RX ENGINEER

Dr. George Sendeckyj, former AFRL/RX engineer, unfortunately passed away in April 2008 at age 66 (see Losses from the RX Family, page 8). However, he left a significant and unforgettable legacy to the Dayton area classical music community. He was an avid collector of classical music CDs. One of his colleagues suggested to his sister, Oksana Sosenko, that they be offered to classical radio station WDPR. Station Manager Georgie Woessner was amazed to see the boxes and boxes of CDs that filled his apartment at the Dayton Towers. She was thrilled (but "dumbfounded") when she saw the size of the collection, as reported in the Dayton Daily News. She indicated that some may be put up for sale once they have determined which ones fill in the missing links in the station's current music collection. This bequeathal by his family serves as a living memorial to a great former RX engineer. If anyone would care to send a sympathy card to his sister and brother-in-law, their address is:

Mr. and Mrs. George Sosenko
11075 Neptune Road
Hollywood, FL 33026

NEW AFRL TECHNICAL DIRECTORATES OSCs

<u>Former</u>	<u>New</u>	<u>Directorate</u>	<u>Former</u>	<u>New</u>	<u>Directorate</u>
VA	RB	- Air Vehicles	ML	RX	- Materials and Manufacturing
DE	RD	- Directed Energy	SN	RY	- Sensors
HE	RH	- Human Effectiveness	PR	RZ	- Propulsion
IF	RI	- Information	RO	RO	- Chief of Staff
VS	RV	- Space Vehicles			
MN	RW	- Munitions			

Change effective as of October 1, 2007.

YOUR AFMMAA OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS



Jim Mattice
President



Warren Johnson
Exec. Vice President



Bob Denison
Treasurer



Dick Engman
Secretary



Tobey Cordell
Membership



Tom Cooper
Newsletter Editor



Bob Cochoy
Scholarship
Committee Chair

AFMMAA CONTRIBUTORS AND MEMBERSHIP

The AFMMAA continues to be very fortunate to have a solid membership and contributor base to support our Scholarship giving and yearly operating cost. Eighteen members have contributed a total of \$1,225 to the Scholarship Fund since October '06. AFMMAA has total membership of 119 active members that includes 12 Charter members, 27 Lifetime Members, and up to 80 yearly renewing members. Your scholarship contributions and membership dues are essential to support and grow our annual scholarships in the areas of science and engineering to children of AFRL/RX employees. A list of Scholarship Contributors, Charter Members, and Lifetime Members is shown on the right.

2007 & 2008 Contributors Scholarship Fund		
Bernard Chasman	Gordon Griffith	Paul Propp*
Tom Cooper	Frank Harsacky	John Rhodehamel
Robert L. Denison*	J. Read Holland	Robert Schwartz
Dick Engman	Douglas Hutchens	John M. Speers
David W. Fischer*	Kenneth Kojola*	Kathy A. Stevens
	Ed Kuhl	Gary Waggoner
Charter Members		
Wade Adams	Craig Hartley	Bob Rice
Bernard Chasman	Bill Kessler	Lynn Trainor
Tom Cooper	Jim Mattice	Ben Wilcox
Gary Denman	James Myers	John Williamson
Lifetime Members		
Mark Anderson	Warren Johnson	Vince Russo
Phil Bouchard	Dave Judson	Robert Schafrik
Dennis Corbly	Bob Kincses	George Schmitt
Ken Elbaum	John Koenig	Don Shrader
Larry Fehrenbacher	Edward Kuhl	George Slenski
Harold Gegel	Cole Litton	James Snide
Alten (Skip) Grandt	Michael McCabe	Jon Tirpak
John Henderson	Larry Parsons	Gary Waggoner
Rob Hull	Bob Rapson	Bill Woody

*Contributed both years

AFMMAA
P.O. Box 341413
Bevercreek, OH 45434-1413

WHERE IS YOUR AFMMAA MEMBERSHIP CARD?

Do you still have your membership card? If you were a single year member, please look at the bottom of the card and see if there is an expiration date. If the expiration date reads 9/30/07, your dues are due for the current year. The annual dues are \$10.00, or a Lifetime Membership is available for \$150.00. If your dues lapse for one year, your membership will become inactive. Our records indicate there are still a number of members who have not paid their 2007-2008 membership dues. We don't want to lose a valuable resource to the Association – YOU!

Please give serious consideration to joining us. Enclosed is a form that can be returned to become an active member.



LOSSES FROM THE RX (ML) FAMILY

We regret to inform you of the following losses from the RX Family that we have heard of since our last Newsletter.

Charles W. (Bill) Douglas	May 2007
F. Ramon (Ray) Bonanno, Lt Col (Ret)	November 2007
Steve Babjak	February 2008
Benita Spurlin	March 2008
George Sendeckyj	April 2008

If you know of any others and would care to share this information, please contact us.

PHOTO IDENTIFICATION

Answers for Page 5

A) Robert M. Besancon; B) Jules Wittebort; C) Charles Nelson; D) Dr. Fritz Ostermann; E) Robert Prickett; F) Jack Ross; G) George Tricket; and H) Dick VanDeusen.



**AIR FORCE MATERIALS & MANUFACTURING
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION (AFMMAA)**

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone -- Home: _____ Work: _____ Fax #: _____

E-mail: _____

Check here if we CAN NOT release mailing address, telephone number, and e-mail to other alumni.

Year departed/retired from ML: _____

Recent information about yourself: _____

What areas would you like to support AFMMAA? (Scholarships, History, Mentoring, etc.)

Membership Category:

Individual - (\$10.00/year)

Lifetime - (\$150.00 one time fee)

Make check payable to: AFMMAA

Return to the following address:

P.O. Box 341413

Beavercreek, OH 45434-1413